GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Public Servants – Environment, Forests, Science & Technology Department – Large Scale illegal quarrying of Slate Stone at Bollapalli Reserve Forest in Ravulapalem Beat of Bollapalli Mandal, Guntur District – Failure of Forest officials in preventing illegal quarrying of Slate Stone in Reserve Forest area - Vigilance Report No.31 – Disciplinary proceedings initiated against Sri G. Venkateswara Rao, Forest Range Officer, formerly worked at Vinukonda Range of Guntur District, under Rule 20 of A.P. Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1991 read with Rule 9 of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980 – Inquiry Conducted - Further action dropped – Orders – Issued.

ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (SEC.IV) DEPARTMENT

G.O.RT.No. 120 **Dated: 22-09-2025**

Read the following:

1)From the Director General, General Administration (Vigilance & Enforcement) Department, Vigilance Report No.31 (C.No.111/V&E/NR1/08), dated 30.03.2010.
2)Govt.Memo.No.2560/For.IV/A1/2010, E.F.S. & T. (For.IV) Dept., dated 05.07.2010, 30.05.2015 and 24.02.2016.
3)From the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, A.P., Guntur, Letter Rc.No.31335/2010/A&DC-2, dated 12.07.2020.
4)Govt. Memo.No.2560/Sec.IV/A1/2010, E.F.S. & T. (Sec.IV) Dept., dated 16.04.2025.
5)From Sri G. Venkateswara Rao, Forest Range Officer (Retd.), Written Representation, dated 22.07.2025.

****

ORDER:

In the Vigilance Report 1st read above, the Director General, General Administration (Vigilance & Enforcement) Department has informed that, on credible information that large scale illicit quarrying of Slate Stone at Bollapalli Reserve Forest in Ravulapalem Beat of Bollapalli Mandal, Guntur District, the Vigilance & Enforcement Department Officials inspected the area and took up inquiry in the matter. The Director General, General Administration (Vigilance & Enforcement) Department has recommended to initiate disciplinary action against Sri G. Venkateswara Rao, Forest Range Officer, Vinukonda for conniving and not initiating action against illegal quarrying persons even after noticing large scale illegal quarrying.

2. In the letter 3rd read above, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, A.P., has informed that, based on the recommendations of the Director General, General Administration (V&E) Department in the Vigilance Report 1st read above and instructions of Government vide reference 2nd read above, the following Article of Charge was issued against Sri G. Venkateswara Rao, Forest Range Officer, formerly worked at Vinukonda Range of Guntur District by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force in Rc.No.31335/2010/Vig.1, dated 15.09.2017, under Rule 20 of A.P. Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1991:

> ***Article:***"*That Sri G. Venkateswara Rao, Forest Range Officer, formerly Forest Range Officer, Vinukonda Range of Guntur Division has exhibited gross negligence in duty resulting illegal quarrying, illegal transport of slate stone and also conniving and not initiating action against illegal quarrying persons even after noticing large scale illegal quarrying in his jurisdiction".*

3. The Charged Officer has acknowledged the receipt of Article of Charge on 17.10.2017 but did not submit his written statement of defense within the stipulated time. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force,

P.T.O.

A.P., has appointed the Chief Conservator of Forests, Guntur Circle as Inquiry Officer and the Divisional Forest Officer, Nellore as Presenting Officer in Ref.No.31335/2010/Vig-1(i&ii), dated 01.03.2018 respectively, for conducting the regular inquiry. Further, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force has issued partial modification orders vide Ref.No.31335/2010/Vig-1, dated 10.12.2019 as requested by the Divisional Forest Officer, Nellore and appointed the Divisional Forest Officer, Guntur as Presenting Officer. The Charged Officer has submitted his written statement of defence dated 24.09.2019 after appointment of Inquiry Officer.

4. The Inquiry Officer & Chief Conservator of Forests, Guntur Circle has completed the inquiry and submitted his findings in Rc.No.1562/2017/M3, dated 13.03.2020 wherein, the Inquiry Officer has concluded that, the charge levelled against the Charged Officer was held **not proved**.

5. The disciplinary proceedings are continued under Rule 9 of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980, since the Charged Officer was retired from Government service on attaining the age of superannuation on 29.02.2020.

6. In Govt. Memo., 4th read above, while communicating a copy of Inquiry Report, the retired Charged Officer was directed to submit his written representation if any, on the findings of Inquiry Officer. The Charged Officer has submitted his Written representation vide reference 5th read above, wherein, he has stated that, he has no further representation on the inquiry findings and requested to take further action in this regard.

7. After careful examination of the matter with reference to the findings of the Inquiry Officer and written representation submitted by the Charged Officer, Government have decided to accept the Enquiry report and to drop further action against Sri G. Venkateswara Rao, Forest Range Officer (Retd.), formerly worked at Vinukonda Range of Guntur District, since the charge framed against him was held not proved in the inquiry.

8. Accordingly, Government hereby order to drop further action in the disciplinary proceedings against Sri G. Venkateswara Rao, Forest Range Officer (Retd.), formerly worked at Vinukonda Range of Guntur District, since the charge framed against him was held not proved in the inquiry.

9. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, A.P., Mangalagiri shall take necessary further action in the matter, accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

KANTILAL DANDE
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
Sri G. Venkateswara Rao, Forest Range Officer (Retd.), formerly worked at Vinukonda Range of Guntur District through the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, A.P., Mangalagiri.
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, A.P., Mangalagiri.

Copy to:

The Director, General, General Administration (V&E) Department, PNBS, Vijayawada.
The Accountant General (A&E), Andhra Pradesh, Vijayawada.
The Secretary to A.P. Vigilance Commission, A.P. Secretariat, Velagapudi.
SF/SC (Computer No.1212814).

//FORWARDED ::BY ORDER //

SECTION OFFICER